

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/866,411

Applicant(s)

SKAANNING ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Wilbert L. Starks, Jr.

2121

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the filing of 05/26/2001.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 37-43.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 26 May 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some\*   c) ☐ None   of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
  - \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 5
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Reasons For Allowance*

1. Claims 37-43 are allowed.

2. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The cited prior art taken alone or in combination fails to teach the claimed invention of product diagnosis, as claimed by Applicant. Specifically, independent claims 37 and 40 disclose the selection of a sub model data structure storing actions for addressing the selected problem based upon the following predetermined criteria stored in the super model: a probability of the execution of one or more actions stored in the sub model solving the selected problem and a cost of the execution of the one or more actions; and executing one or more actions stored in the sub model.

3. The closest prior art of Mokhlesi<sup>1</sup> teaches the use of Bayesian techniques to diagnose a product but fails to teach or suggest selection of a sub model data structure storing actions for addressing the selected problem based upon the following predetermined criteria stored in the super model: a probability of the execution of one or more actions stored in the sub model solving the selected problem and a cost of the

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<sup>1</sup> Mokhlesi (U.S. Patent Number 6,345,001 B1; dated 05 FEB 2002; class 365; subclass 185.33).

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execution of the one or more actions; and executing one or more actions stored in the sub model. To the extent that this feature is not present in the prior art cited by Examiner, the present case is found to be allowable over the art of record.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- A. Horvitz (U.S. Patent Number 6,618,716 B1; dated 09 SEP 2003; class 706; subclass 055) discloses a computational architecture for managing the transmittal and rendering of information, alerts, and notifications.
- B. Pavlovic et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,591,146 B1; dated 08 JUL 2003; class 700; subclass 029) discloses a method for learning switching linear dynamic system models from data.
- C. Mokhlesi (U.S. Patent Number 6,345,001 B1; dated 05 FEB 2002; class 365; subclass 185.33) discloses a compressed event counting technique and application to a flash memory system.

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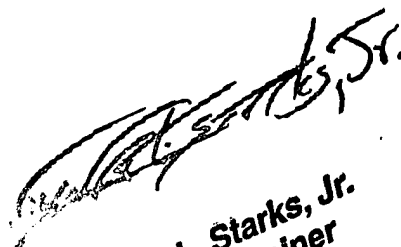
- D. Laumeyer et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,266,442 B1; dated 24 JUL 2001; class 382; subclass 190) discloses a method and apparatus for identifying objects depicted in a videostream.
- E. Guerillot et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,764,515 A; dated 09 JUN 1998; class 702; subclass 002) discloses a method for predicting, by means of an inversion technique, the evolution of the production of an underground reservoir.
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Wilbert L. Starks, Jr. whose telephone number is (571) 272-3691.

Alternatively, inquiries may be directed to the following:

<b>S. P. E. Anthony Knight</b>	<b>(571) 272-3687</b>
<b>After-final (FAX)</b>	<b>(703) 746-7238</b>
<b>Official (FAX)</b>	<b>(703) 746-7239</b>
<b>Non-Official/Draft (FAX)</b>	<b>(703) 746-7240</b>

WLS

04 March 2005

  
**Wilbert L. Starks, Jr.**  
**Primary Examiner**  
**Art Unit - 2121**